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PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Willett, Kevin R.

Atty. Docket: 85939.000193
#7/A

Serial No.: 09/839,887

Examiner:

Filed: April 20, 2001

Art Unit:

Title: CONTIGUOUS COLLIQUEFACTION FORMING A SURFACE FILM FOR A COMPOSITE STRIP

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to substantive examination of the present application, please consider the application amended as follows:

b6 b7B

1. (Once Amended) An automotive weatherseal, comprising:
(a) a resilient elastomeric body; and
(b) a colliquefied powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on a portion of the resilient elastomeric body, the surface film having a thickness less than 0.2 mm.

2. (Once Amended) The automotive weatherseal of claim 1, wherein the resilient elastomeric body includes a trim portion and a sealing portion.

3. (Once Amended) The automotive weatherseal of Claim 1, wherein the surface film has a thickness between approximately 0.05 mm and 0.2 mm.

4. (Once Amended) The automotive weatherseal of Claim 1, further comprising a metallic reinforcing member connected to the resilient body.—

5. (Once Amended) An automotive weatherseal, comprising:
(a) a substrate having a first portion formed of a first elastomeric material and a second portion formed of a different second elastomeric material; and

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(b) a powder coating colliquefaction forming a contiguous surface layer bonded to the first portion and the second portion.

6. (Once Amended) The automotive weatherseal of Claim 5, wherein the first elastomeric material is a thermoset material and the second elastomeric material is a thermoplastic material.

7. (Once Amended) The automotive weatherseal of Claim 5, further comprising a metallic reinforcing member connected to one of the first portion or the second portion.

8. (Once Amended) The automotive weatherseal of Claim 5, wherein the colliquefaction has a thickness between approximately 0.05 mm and 0.2 mm.

9. (Once Amended) The automotive weatherseal of Claim 5, wherein the colliquefaction is a thermoset material and the second elastomeric material is a thermoplastic material.

10. (Once Amended) A weatherseal comprising a colliquefaction of a powder coating defining a contiguous surface film on a resilient elastomeric portion of the weatherseal.

11. The weatherseal of Claim 10, wherein the powder coating includes a thermoset and a thermoplastic material.

12. The weatherseal of Claim 10, wherein the colliquefaction is a thermoset material and the weatherseal includes a thermoplastic portion bonded to the colliquefaction.

13. The weatherseal of Claim 10, further comprising a metallic reinforcing member.

14. The weatherseal of Claim 10, further comprising a thermoplastic portion and a thermoset portion, and the colliquefaction is bonded to the thermoplastic portion and the thermoset portion.

15. The weatherseal of Claim 10, wherein the colliquefaction has a thickness less than 0.2 mm.

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16. The weatherseal of Claim 10, further comprising a metallic reinforcing member having a U-shaped cross sectional profile.

17. The weatherseal of Claim 10, wherein the contiguous colliquefaction is continuous.

18. (Once Amended) The weatherseal of Claim 10, wherein the colliquefaction is located to form a sealing surface.

19. (Once Amended) The weatherseal of Claim 10, wherein the colliquefaction has a gloss appearance.

20. (Once Amended) A weatherseal for sealing an interface between two confronting surfaces in an automotive vehicle, the weatherseal comprising;

(a) an elastomeric base;

(b) a resilient sealing portion for contacting one of the confronting surfaces;

and

(c) a colliquefaction of a powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on one of the base and the sealing portion.

21. (Once Amended) ~~The weatherseal of Claim 20, wherein the surface film is on the sealing portion.~~

22. (Once Amended) ~~The weatherseal of Claim 20, wherein the sealing portion is elastomeric and the surface film is on the sealing portion.~~

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23. (Once Amended) ~~The weatherseal of Claim 20, wherein the base includes a trim portion and the colliquefaction is located on the trim portion.~~

24. (Once Amended) The weatherseal of Claim 20, further comprising a metallic reinforcing member in the base.

25. (Once Amended) ~~The weatherseal of Claim 20, wherein the colliquefaction is bonded to the one of the base and the sealing portion to preclude non-destructive separation.~~

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contd*

26. (Once Amended) The weatherseal of Claim 20, wherein the base further comprises a trim portion formed of a different material than the sealing portion, and the colliquefaction is bonded to the trim portion.

27. A method of forming a surface film on a portion of a weatherseal, comprising:

- creating an electric potential between the portion of the weatherseal and powder coating;
- exposing the powder coating to the electric potential to attach the powder coating to the portion of the weatherseal; and
- melting the powder coating on the portion of the weatherseal to form a contiguous surface layer on the portion of the weatherseal.

28. The method of Claim 28, further comprising employing a thermosetting material in the powder coating.

29. A method of forming a surface film on a weatherseal, comprising:

- forming a resilient body about an electrically conductive member;
- exposing the electrically conductive member to an electrical potential to form a surface charge on the resilient body;
- exposing the surface charge on the resilient body to an oppositely charged powder coating to attract the powder coating to the resilient body; and
- melting the powder coating on the resilient body to form a contiguous surface layer bonded to the body.

30. A method of forming a contiguous surface film on a weatherseal, comprising:

- retaining a powder coating on the weatherseal; and
- colliquefying the retained powder coating to form a contiguous surface film.

31. The method of Claim 30, further comprising electrostatically retaining the powder coating on the weatherseal.

32. The method of Claim 31, further comprising forming the weatherseal of a polymeric material.